

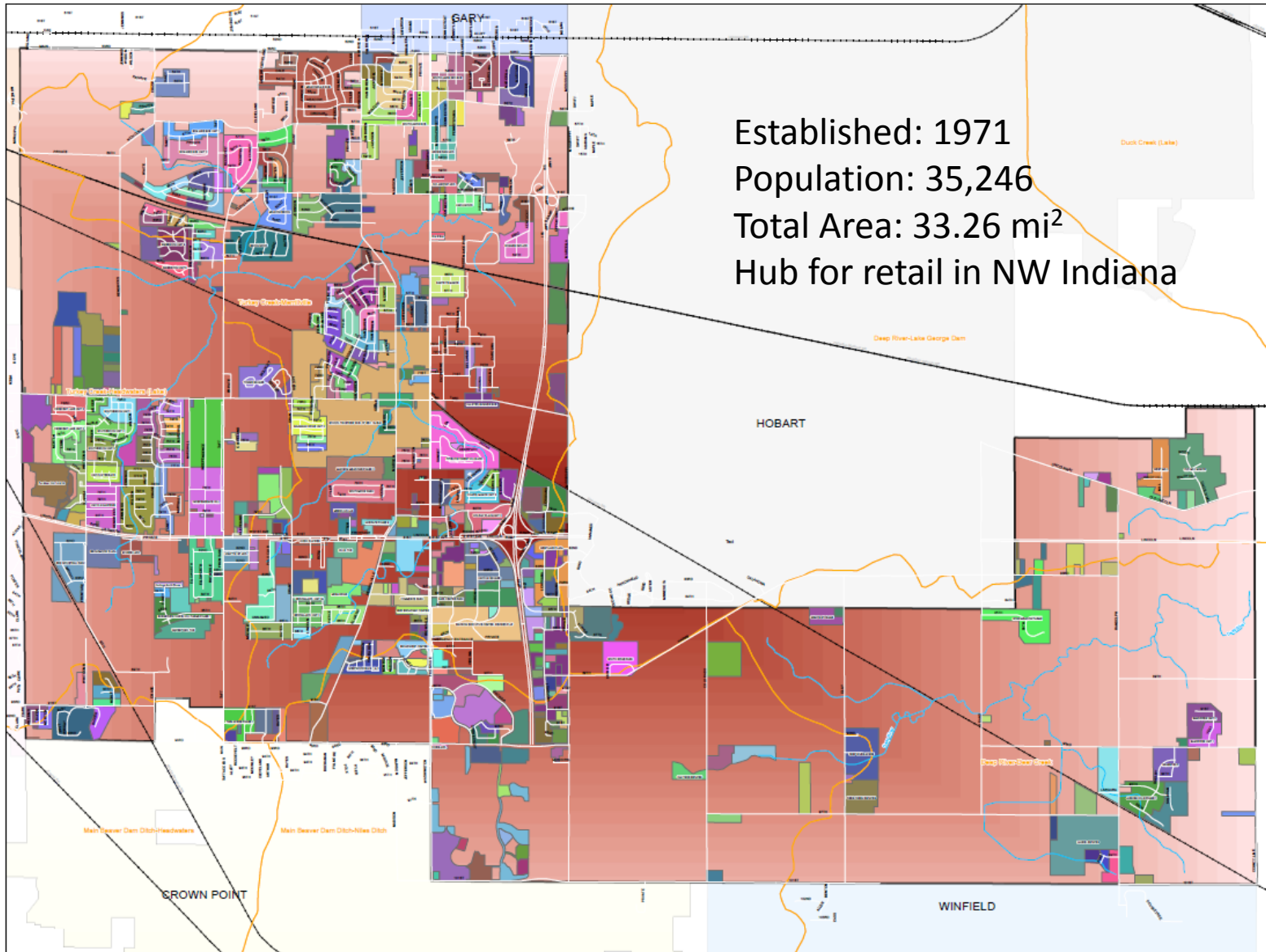


STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS 2015



Indiana's Largest Town

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE



PLANNING & BUILDING



Dorinda Gregor - Director

Economic Growth for the Region!





New Development

- In 2014 the Merrillville Planning & Building Department issued 1,131 permits totaling **\$30,317,018** estimated cost of improvements.
- Commercial activity consisted of new buildings, interior/exterior remodels of businesses, and parking lot improvements
- Our Business licensing within the town continues to grow
- We have issued 1425 licenses which included many new restaurants, new offices, retail stores and a hotel
- There were several properties that were blighted that have been improved
- Construction activity that will begin this year that had received 2014 approval
 - Ashley Furniture and two outlots
 - Starbucks (Merrillville Rd & U.S 30)
 - American Brake and Muffler
 - Whiteco Memory Care Facility





Staybridge Hotel



Save a Lot Food Store



SLEEPY'S
The Mattress
Professionals

SLEEPY'S
The Mattress Professionals

**GRAND
OPENING**

**NO
COLOR
NEEDED**

Sleepy's Mattress





Ameriplex - Millennium Drywall





Modern Drop Forge

Residential Development

2014 Residential Development increased with construction occurring in:

- Madison Meadows
- Waterford
- Prairie Creek
- Foxmoor



Habitat for Humanity





Fight the Blight Program

- Initiative was launched in June of last year
- Formed an Abandoned & Blight Properties Committee
- Areas were surveyed to assess needs and as a result 165 homes and vacant lots are being reviewed
- Meetings were held with building professionals and financing institutions
- A plan is being developed along with policies and legal options



STORMWATER UTILITY



Matthew Lake, M.S., CMS4S - Executive Director

Every Drop Counts!





Stormwater Master Plan

- Finalized New Stormwater 20-Year Master Plan
- Conducted drainage studies for each sub-watershed area
- Identified and prioritized capital improvement projects estimated **over 24 million dollars**
- Meadowdale Lateral Subwatershed - \$3,887,694.60
- Kaiser Ditch Subwatershed - \$8,357,638.80
- Chapel Manor Subwatershed - \$8,674,335.00
- North Central Turkey Creek Subwatershed - \$1,662,824.10
- Northeast Turkey Creek Subwatershed - \$2,328,060.00
- **TOTAL - \$24,910,552.50**

Land Use	TSS	TP	TKN	NH3-N	BOD	COD	Lead	Zinc	Cu
Commercial	1000	1.5	6.7	1.9	62	420	2.7	2.1	0.4
Parking Lot	400	0.7	5.1	2.0	47	270	0.8	0.8	0.04
High Density Residential	420	1.0	4.2	0.8	27	170	0.8	0.7	0.03
Medium Density Residential	190	0.5	2.5	0.5	13	72	0.2	0.2	0.14
Low Density Residential	10	0.04	0.03	0.02	NA	NA	0.01	0.04	0.01
Freeway/Interstate	880	0.9	7.9	1.5	NA	NA	4.5	2.1	0.37
Industrial	860	1.3	3.8	0.2	NA	NA	2.4	7.3	0.50
Park/Open Space	3	0.03	1.5	NA	NA	2.0	0.0	NA	NA
Construction	6000	80	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Table 5. Typical Pollutant Loadings from Runoff by Urban Land Use (lbs/acre-yr). EPA, Honer et al, 1994

Stormwater Master Plan – August 2014



Prepared for:
Merrillville Stormwater Utility
Mr. Matthew Lake, M.S. – Executive Director
7404 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410

Prepared by:
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
9575 W. Higgins Road, Suite 600
Rosemont, IL 60018

Town of Merrillville

This Document Contains:


- Project Overview
- Study Delineation and Methodology
- Drainage Studies: Nine Subwatersheds
- Identification of Problem Areas
- Proposed Recommendations and Cost
 - Infrastructure
 - Water Quality Improvements
- Prioritization Matrix





FEMA Community Rating System

- Merrillville Stormwater Utility ranked the best in the state for the FEMA CRS program!
- Voluntary incentive program that recognizes community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements
- Lowered flood insurance premiums for all flood insurance policies within the Town of Merrillville

**FEMA**

Fact Sheet

Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

Community Rating System

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) was implemented in 1990 as a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities exceeding the minimum NFIP standards. Any community in full compliance with the minimum NFIP floodplain management requirements may apply to join the CRS.

1,211 Communities Participate in the CRS

Nearly 3.8 million policyholders in 1,211 communities participate in the CRS by implementing local mitigation, floodplain management, and outreach activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements.

Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the three goals of the CRS, which are: (1) reduce flood damage to insurable property; (2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and (3) encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

Although CRS communities represent only 5 percent of the over 21,000 communities participating in the NFIP, more than 67 percent of all flood insurance policies are written in CRS communities.

CRS Classes

The CRS uses a class rating system that is similar to fire insurance rating to determine flood insurance premium reductions for residents. CRS classes* are rated from 10 to 1. A community that does not apply for the CRS or that does not maintain the minimum number of credit points would be considered a Class 10 community. Today, most communities enter the program at a Class 9 rating, which entitles residents in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs)

to a 5 percent discount on their flood insurance premiums. As a community engages in additional mitigation activities, its residents become eligible for increased NFIP policy premium discounts. Each CRS Class improvement produces a 5 percent greater discount on flood insurance premiums for properties in the SFHA, with a Class 1 community receiving the maximum 45 percent premium reduction.

Best of the Best

Four communities occupy the highest levels of the CRS. Each has developed a floodplain management program tailored to its own particular hazards, character, and goals. Under these programs, each community carries out numerous and varied activities, many of which are credited by the CRS. The average discount in policyholder premiums varies according to a community's CRS class and the average amount of insurance coverage in place. Some highlights:

Roseville, California was the first to reach the highest CRS rating (Class 1). Damaging floods in 1995 spurred Roseville to strengthen and broaden its floodplain management program. Today the City earns points for almost all CRS creditable activities. The average premium discount for policies in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is \$792.

Comprehensive planning for floodplain management has been a key contributor to Tulsa, Oklahoma's progress in reducing flood damage from the dozens of creeks within its jurisdiction. The City (Class 2) has cleared more than 900 buildings from its floodplains. The average premium discount for policies in the SFHA is \$514.

King County, Washington (Class 2) has preserved more than 100,000 acres of floodplain open space and receives additional CRS credit for maintaining it in a natural state. The average premium discount for policies in the SFHA is \$586.

Pierce County, Washington (Class 2) maintains over 80 miles of river levees. County officials annually mail informational brochures to all floodplain residents. The average premium discount for policies in the SFHA is \$550.

* CRS class changes occur on May 1 and October 1 of each year. The data contained in this fact sheet were current through May 1, 2012.

"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, secure and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."



Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

- Merrillville Stormwater Utility became the 1st Indiana Stormwater Utility to Receive a Governor's Award!
- Recognized for Environmental Excellence in the Greening Government category





Stormwater Resource Center



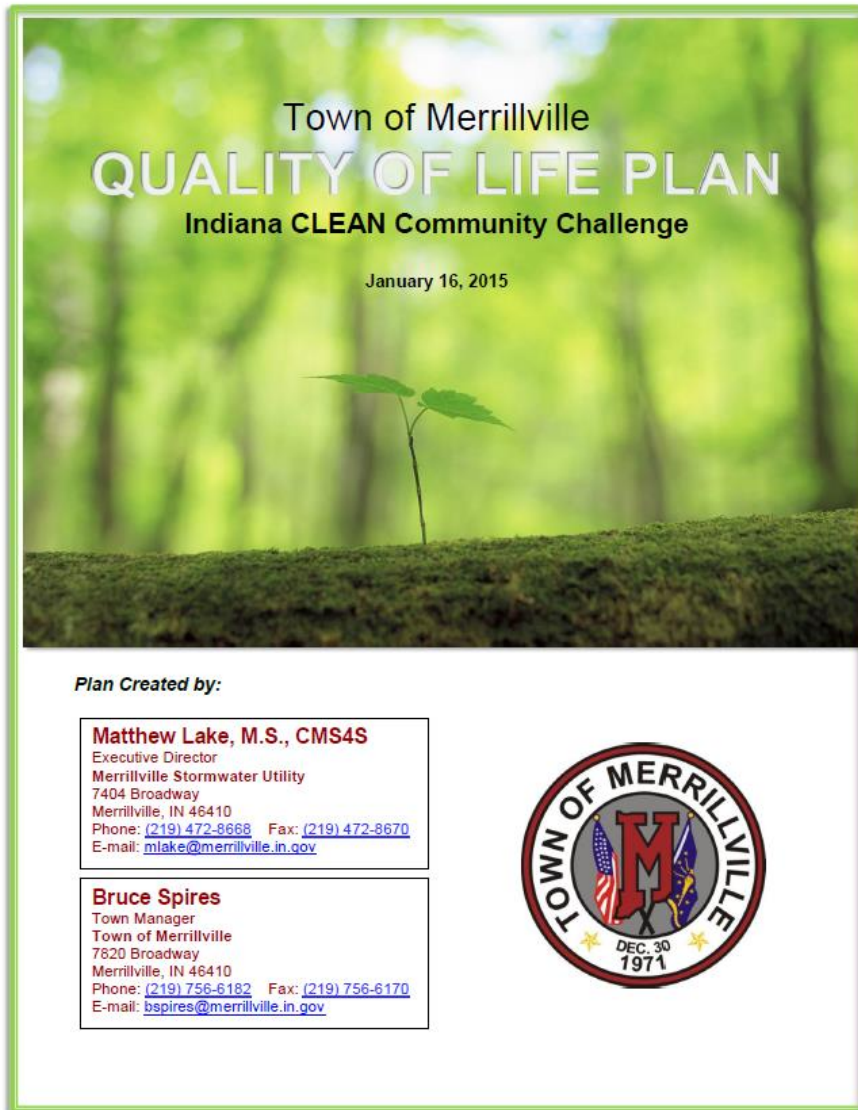
- Redevelopment along Broadway corridor
- 1st Stormwater Resource Center in Indiana
- Started hosting workshops with engineers and developers to promote Best Management Practices





IDEM Clean Community

- Merrillville applied to become an IDEM Clean Community
- Set goals to improve the quality of life
- Voluntary recognition program that recognizes and rewards Indiana communities for proactively managing environmental impacts associated with governmental operations





Infrastructure Maintenance

- Merrillville has 6063 inlets and 804,713 feet of storm drains that are routinely cleaned with our Jet Vac and viewed with the camera truck to assess condition
- Information is utilized to identify and prioritize routine maintenance projects





Low Impact Development Standards

- First Community in NW Indiana to develop and implement Low Impact Development Standards
- Reduces stormwater runoff and promotes recharge of ground water
- Improves aesthetics for new development



CHAPTER SIX

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) FOR STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

1. APPLICABILITY AND EXEMPTIONS

The following activities shall be exempt from this chapter:

- Permitted surface or deep mining operations and projects, or oil and gas operations.
- Tilling, planting, or harvesting of agricultural, horticultural, or forest crops.
- Linear development projects, provided that (i) less than one acre of land will be disturbed per outfall or watershed, (ii) there will be insignificant increases in peak flow rates, and (iii) there are no existing or anticipated flooding or erosion problems downstream of the discharge points.
- Single-family detached residences separately built and not part of a subdivision, including additions or modifications to existing single-family detached residential structures.
- Structures considered ancillary to single-family detached and semidetached residences, duplexes, and townhouses, including, but not limited to, garages, decks, patios, and barns.

Any project located within The Town of Merrillville that includes clearing, grading, excavation, and other land disturbing activities, resulting in the disturbance of or impact on one (1) acre or more of total land area, is subject to the requirements of this chapter. Residential, commercial or industrial development or re-development shall apply LID storm water management criteria when feasible. If the Developer or Owner feels that there project is not capable of meeting the criteria or want to alter standards then all appeals will be directed to the Town of Merrillville Storm Water Management Board. After the Boards review, a recommendation will be made to the Plan Commission where final approval or denial will take place. Residential, commercial or industrial developments shall apply these storm water management criteria to land development as a whole. Individual residential lots in new subdivisions shall not be considered separate land development projects, but rather the entire subdivision shall be considered a single land development project. Hydrologic parameters shall reflect the ultimate land development and shall be used in all engineering calculations.

2. POLICY ON LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

The Town of Merrillville recognizes that Low Impact Development (LID) is an innovative Storm Water Management approach with a basic principle that is modeled after nature: manage rainfall at the source using site design techniques that store, infiltrate, filter, evaporate and detain runoff. LID's goal is to mimic a site's predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate and detain runoff close to its source. A goal of LID is to use site and subdivision design techniques in coordination with storm water management engineering to mimic the hydrologic conditions associated with an undeveloped site. The Town also recognizes that development tends to degrade receiving waters through increased flooding, stream channel erosion, and the transport and deposition of waterborne pollutants. This degradation is due, in part, to increased storm water runoff as property is developed. The regulation of storm water runoff from developments can control the negative impacts of generating increased flooding, erosion, and non-point source pollutant runoff. The intent of this chapter is to establish minimum LID requirements which: Protect the safety and welfare of Merrillville residents and businesses; reduce flood damage to property; minimize the impacts of increased storm water runoff from new land development; maintain the adequacy of existing and proposed culverts, bridges, dams, and other structures; prevent, to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), non-point source pollution; maintain the integrity of stream channels for their biological functions and drainage; minimize the impact of development upon stream erosion; and preserve and protect water supply facilities from increased flood discharges, stream erosion, and non-point source pollution.

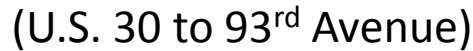
PUBLIC WORKS



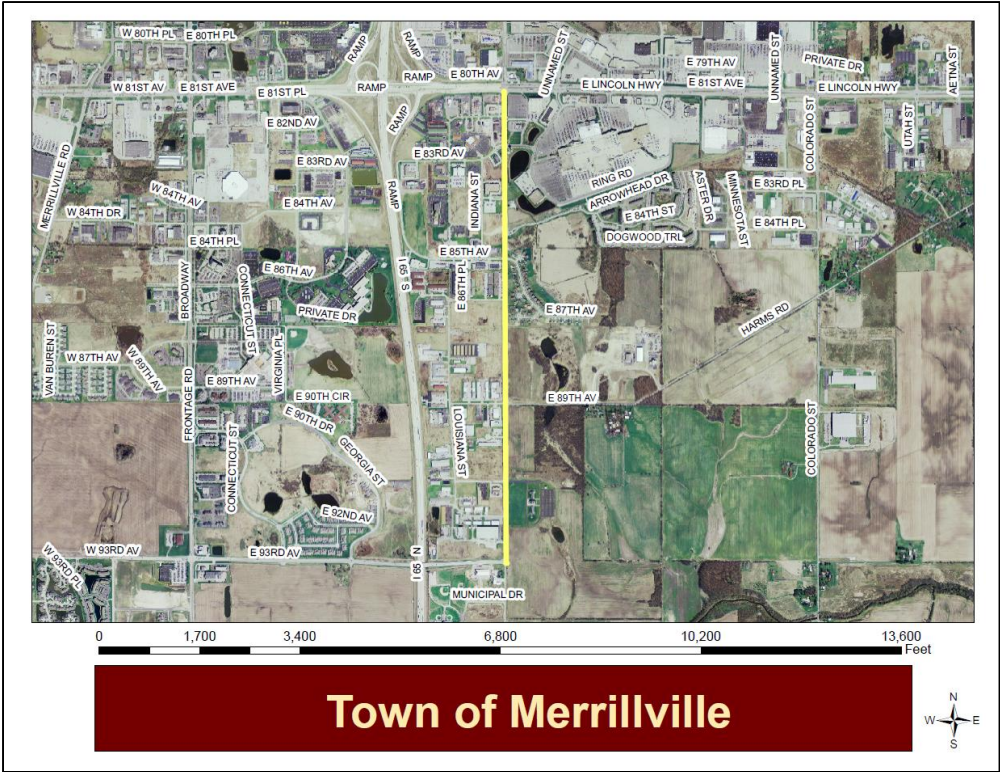
Bruce Spires - Director
Kevin Markle - Superintendent

Paving the Way!





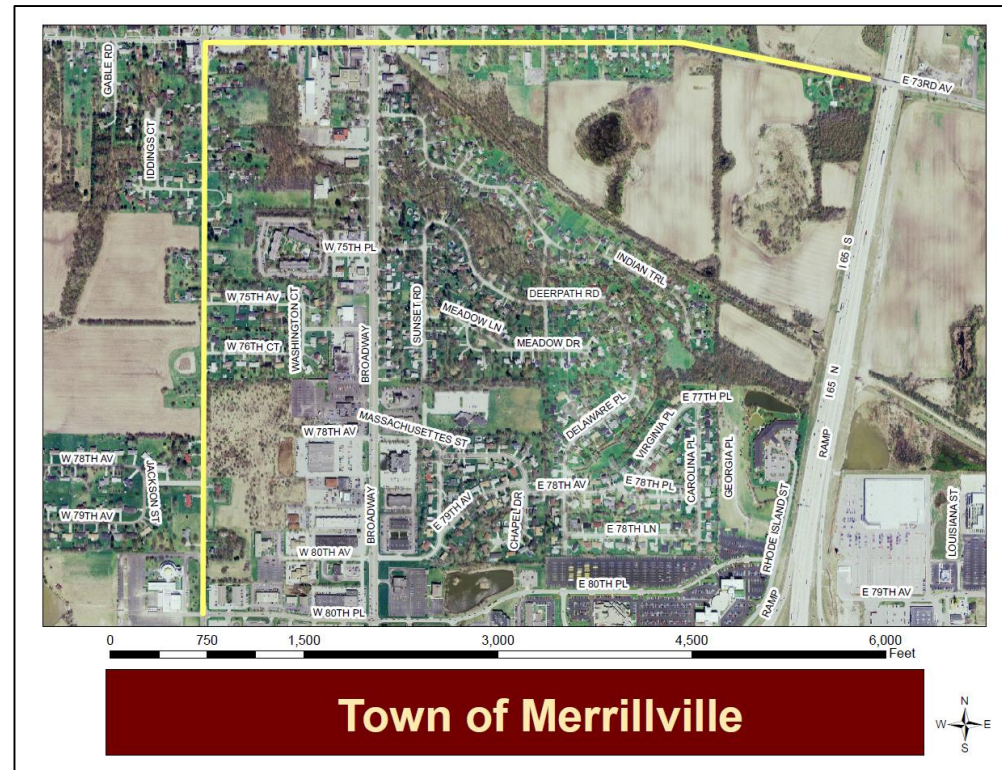
- All the necessary right of way was obtained and 90% of all utility relocation was completed in 2014
- Construction has begun and will continue into 2017
- When complete it will mirror Mississippi Street north of U.S. 30
- The project also includes a new traffic signal at the intersection of 89th Avenue
- The Town has secured Group 1 federal funding through NIRPC to pay for 80% of the project
- The Town's portion will be funded through the Mississippi Street TIF district
- Total cost including construction inspection is **\$10,304,200.00**





73rd Avenue & Madison Street

- Through the Town's Redevelopment Commission, 73rd Avenue from the I-65 bridge to Madison Street and Madison Street from 73rd Avenue to 80th Place will be reconstructed and widened to mirror Merrillville Road south of U.S. 30
- Total construction cost for both projects will be nearly **\$6,000,000.00**

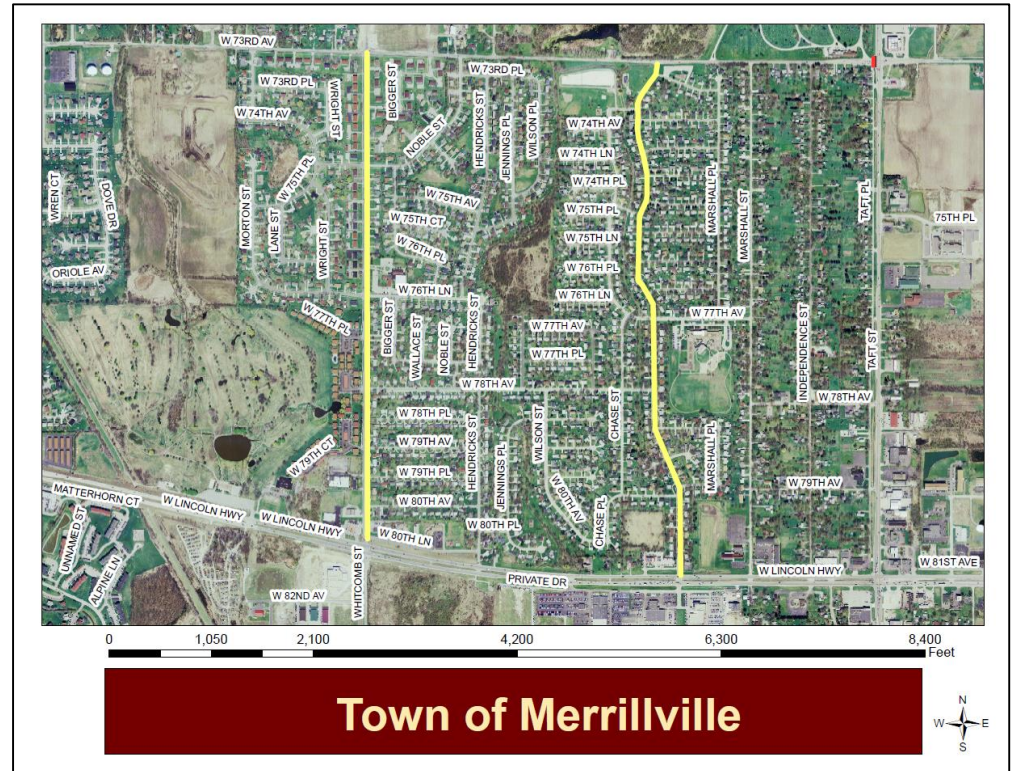




Taney Place & Whitcomb Street

(U.S. 30 to 73rd Avenue)

- In 2014, the Town acquired a **\$4,000,000.00** bond through its Redevelopment commission to fund road reconstruction and drainage improvements on both Taney Place and Whitcomb Street between 73rd Avenue and U.S 30.
- Construction on this project will begin by the end of this month.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



Joe Petruch - Chief

Protect and Serve!





Investing in Protection

- Currently have 53 full-time police officers (increase from 47)
- Increased officers salaries – first year patrolman(54K)
- Purchased 13 new police cars (non-tax payer source)
- Have a general operating fund of **\$4,110,526**
- Burglary for Business is down 64%
- Responded to 21,700 service calls
- Obtained MRAP – Armored Personnel carrier through grant
- Added one new canine unit/drug detection



FIRE DEPARTMENT



Ed Yerga - Chief

Keeping us Safe!





Investing in Safety

- In 2014 Merrillville purchased the following equipment for the Fire Department:
- (3) Pierce Custom Fire Engines \$1.65 million
- (1) Pierce Custom 3000 Gallon Tanker/Pumper \$625,000
- (83) MSA Breathing Apparatus and Accountability System \$800,000
- (100) Dual Band Portable Radios and (25) Mobile Radios (To comply with new County Consolidated Dispatch) \$770,000
- All new Firefighting equipment to outfit 4 new fire trucks \$225,000
- (50) Sets of Lion Bunker Gear for Firefighters \$100,000
- New Breathing Air Cascade Fixed Fill Station and Portable Fill Station \$60,000
- 2014 John Deere Gator and 2014 Polaris Ranger and equipment for brush fire response \$40,000
- **Total \$4,270,000**



PARKS



Jan Orlich - Director

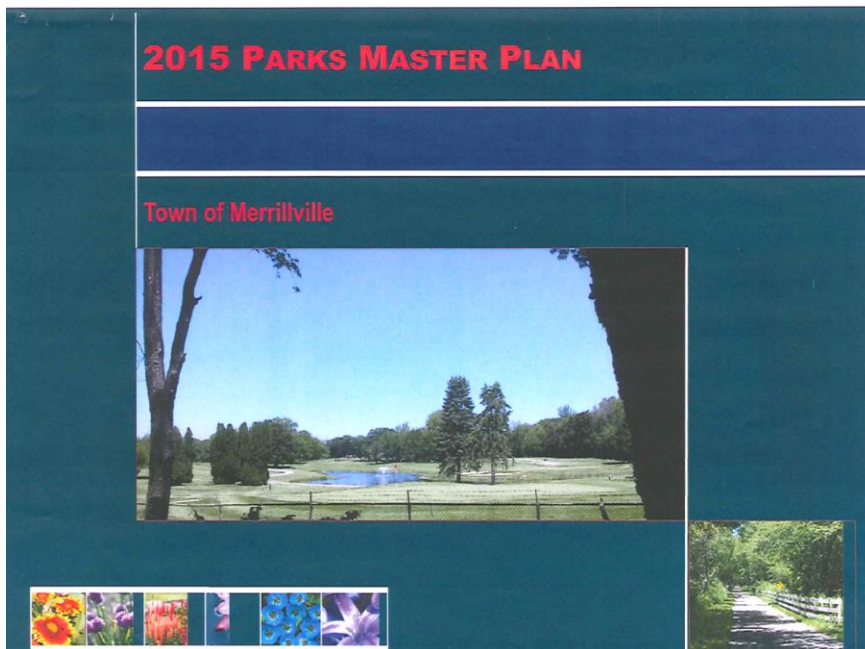
Activities for All!





Re-vamping the Parks

- Completed new parks master plan (2015-2019)
- Plan highlights accessibility, new trail and path development, land acquisition, protection of green space, improved athletic fields and calls for a community recreation facility
- Developed new Spring/Summer Brochure expanding program options
- Merrillville's Park Department is evolving into a park department that meets the needs of an expanding community, addressing quality of life, current trends and expansion of offerings





Youth Programming



Colored Pencil Drawing Class

Ages 16+ Time: 1-3pm
Resident \$45/Non-Resident \$50
June 10-July 15 or July 29-Sept. 2
Fred Holly brings 15 years of teaching experience to his classes. This course is designed to teach beginner or advanced colored pencil techniques. Using Prismacolor pencils students learn rendering techniques.

Minimum 9. Maximum 18



Soccer

Ages 2-12 Time: 4:30-5:15pm
Resident \$53/Non-Resident \$58
Tuesdays
April 28—June 2
June 9—July 14

This soccer camp will concentrate on the fundamentals of beginner soccer. Learn introductory skills which include agility, coordination, ball handling .

Minimum 6. Maximum 20



Kindermusik—Beach Days

Ages 2—3 1/2 with parent/caregiver
Resident \$60/Non-Resident \$65
Materials Fee- \$35
(CD,book,castanets)
June 9—July 7
12:45p—1:30p

Grab your beach ball, we're going to the beach. We'll enjoy favorite songs and dances, do the Octopus Hula, Jump on a banana boat and relax to gentle beach sounds and songs. Beach Days is as fun as a trip to the beach. Sign language is incorporated into the classes.

Minimum 5. Maximum 10



Acrylic Painting

Ages 16+ Time: 1-3pm
Resident \$45/Non-Resident \$50
June 11-July 16 or July 28-Sept. 3

Fred Holly will take the beginner or advanced student through various techniques of acrylic painting. Still life., landscape and portrait.

Minimum 9. Maximum 18



New Programs

MERRILLVILLE PARKS SPRING/SUMMER 2015 EVENTS

Trash N' Treasure Sale - 8am to 1pm

Sat. May 16 & Sat. Aug. 29, 2015.

Pruzin Community Center Parking Lot.



One man's trash is another's treasure. Come and browse the gently used items and arts and crafts. Food vendors and baked goods are welcome with approved Health Dept. Food Service Certification. Booth space is available on a first come first serve basis. Vendor set-up begins at 6am. (All items brought by vendors MUST be removed at the end of the sale.) 10 x 10 rental space \$26.75 Vendors must supply their own tables/tents, etc. Booth space is limited to the first 30 vendors. Call the Merrillville Park & Recreation Dept. at 219-980-5911 to reserve your booth space. Booth space is reserved when payment is received.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Merrillville Park Department will sponsor **FREE** outdoor concerts at Pruzin Park



CONCERT IN THE PARK-DUPAGE

THURS. JUNE 25, 2015. 7PM. PRUZIN PARK OUTDOOR GAZEBO.

Enjoy an outdoor concert at Pruzin Park. The best in dance music covering Motown, 70's, 80's and 90's music, Dupage plays an amazing mix of music that will make you dance the night away at Pruzin Park.

CONCERT IN THE PARK- LATIN SATIN SOUL

THURS. JULY, 30, 2015

One of the hottest and most dynamic bands of the decade. Latin Satin Soul will perform their hits at Pruzin Park. Come out and listen to one of the best horn sections around as Latin Satin Soul plays the night away at Pruzin Park. Latin Satin Soul will get you out of your seat dancing to their hits all night long

CONCERT IN THE PARK- NEVERLY BROTHERS

THURS. AUG. 20, 2015

The Neverly Brothers play all your favorite rock and rhythm & blues hits from the 50' through the 60's.

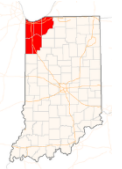
Their repertoire consists of rendition of hits by Buddy Holly, The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Dave Clark Five and many other artists who shaped rock n' roll and R&B.

TOWN MANAGEMENT



Bruce Spires - Town Manager

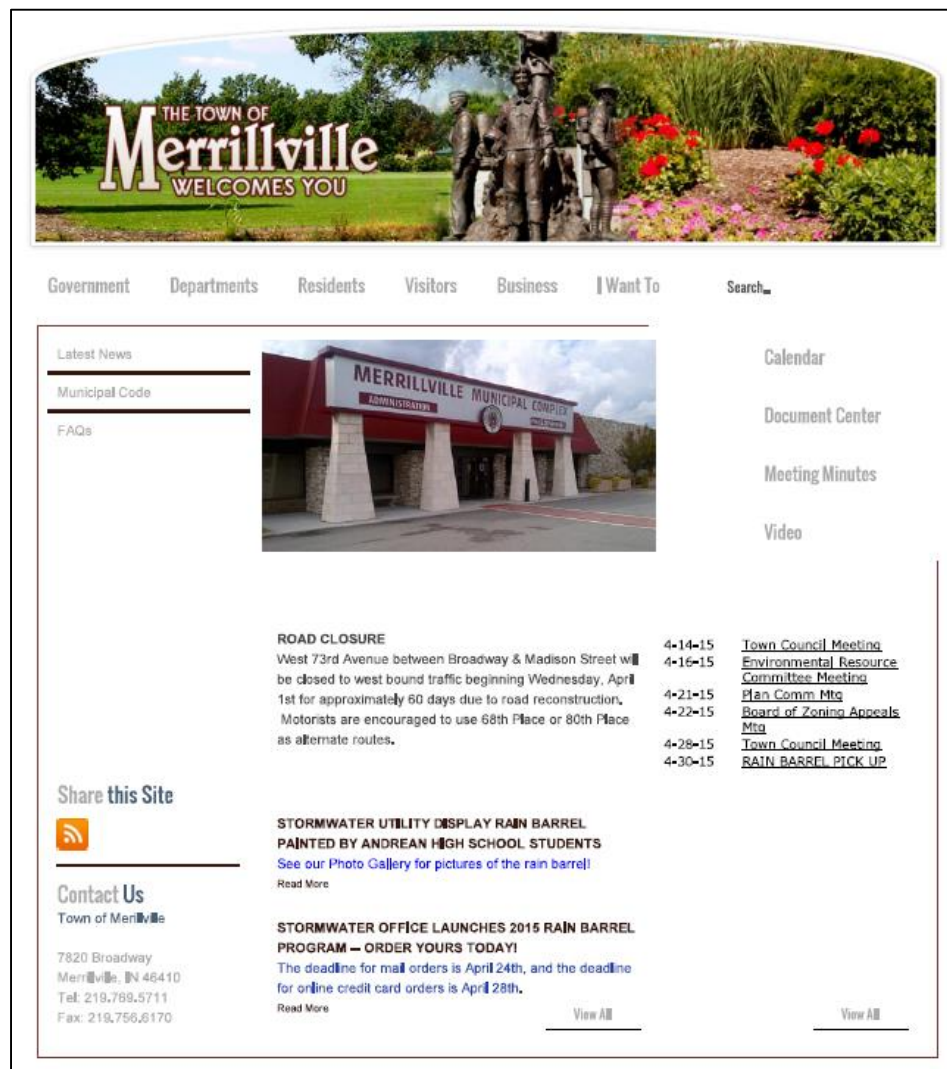
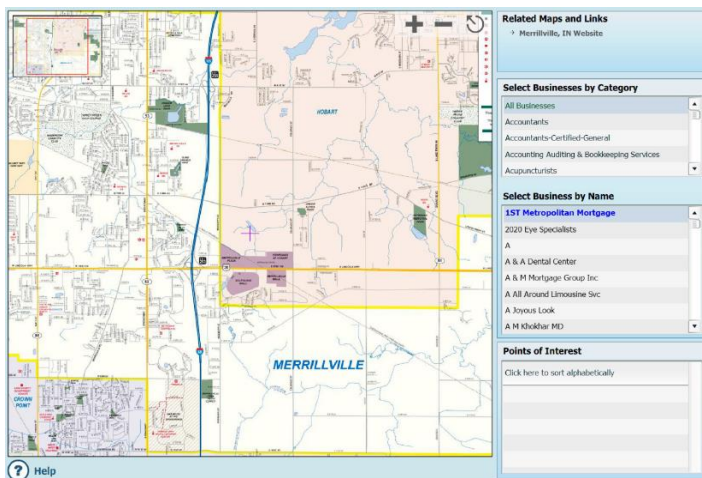
Smart Growth in the Region!





Marketing for New Growth

- New Website
- Business Locator Map
- Electronic Billboard
- Newsletter
- Ordinances





- **More Economic Development anticipated for 2015!**

